

THE EXCAVATION OF
MAIDEN CASTLE, DORSET

FIRST INTERIM REPORT

By

R. E. M. WHEELER, D.Lit., V.P.S.A.

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The Excavation of Maiden Castle, Dorset

First Interim Report

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WITH the consent of the Duchy of Cornwall (the owners of the site) and H.M. Office of Works (its guardians), the Society of Antiquaries and the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society have undertaken a limited exploration of Maiden Castle, Dorset, over a period of three years. The first season's work was carried out in 1934 under the direction of Mrs. T. V. Wheeler and Lt.-Col. C. D. Drew, with the writer, and is here summarized.

The project was determined by two factors. The first was geographical. A stretch of country 70 miles wide between the Salisbury Avon and eastern Devon forms a reasonably coherent geographical unit containing upwards of seventy major fortified hill-towns of Early Iron Age type (pl. xxviii). Many of them have been partially explored but, with the important exception of the coastal, and therefore perhaps non-typical, site on Hengistbury Head, none of them has yielded a mass of material comparable with that now available from the marsh-villages of the Somerset plain on the northern fringe of this region. It was felt accordingly that the time had arrived for the exploration of a hill-site on a scale sufficiently elaborate to secure a quantitative as well as a qualitative survey of the Wessex hill-fort cultures, and so to provide a solid basis for comparative study. For this purpose Maiden Castle, situated centrally within the zone in question, is eminently suitable. The second factor was the outstanding distinction of the earthwork itself. Enclosing 45 acres and covering close upon 100 acres, it is not, as is sometimes claimed, the largest hill-fort in the country, but it is unsurpassed in Great Britain, if not in Europe, for the grandeur and complexity of its defences. On this ground alone, the time has arrived when British archaeology should be able to give a reasoned account of the period and purpose of its building and the nature of its construction.

Slight and ill-recorded excavations carried out intermittently by Edward Cunnington of Dorchester culminated in 1882 with the partial uncovering of a Roman building in the eastern part of the earthwork. For the rest, the only significant clue was provided by the structure of the earthwork itself: it was evident from the plan (pl. xxix) that the 'camp' had originally been

restricted to the eastern of the two knolls now included within the defences and had been surrounded by a single bank and ditch. These had subsequently been almost obliterated on the western side, where they remain merely as a broken line across the interior of the enlarged work. The obvious points of attack in 1934 were thus: (1) the 'slighted' western defences of the original Maiden Castle (sites A and C on plan), and (2) the area of the Roman building sampled by Cunningham in 1882 (site B).

SITE A

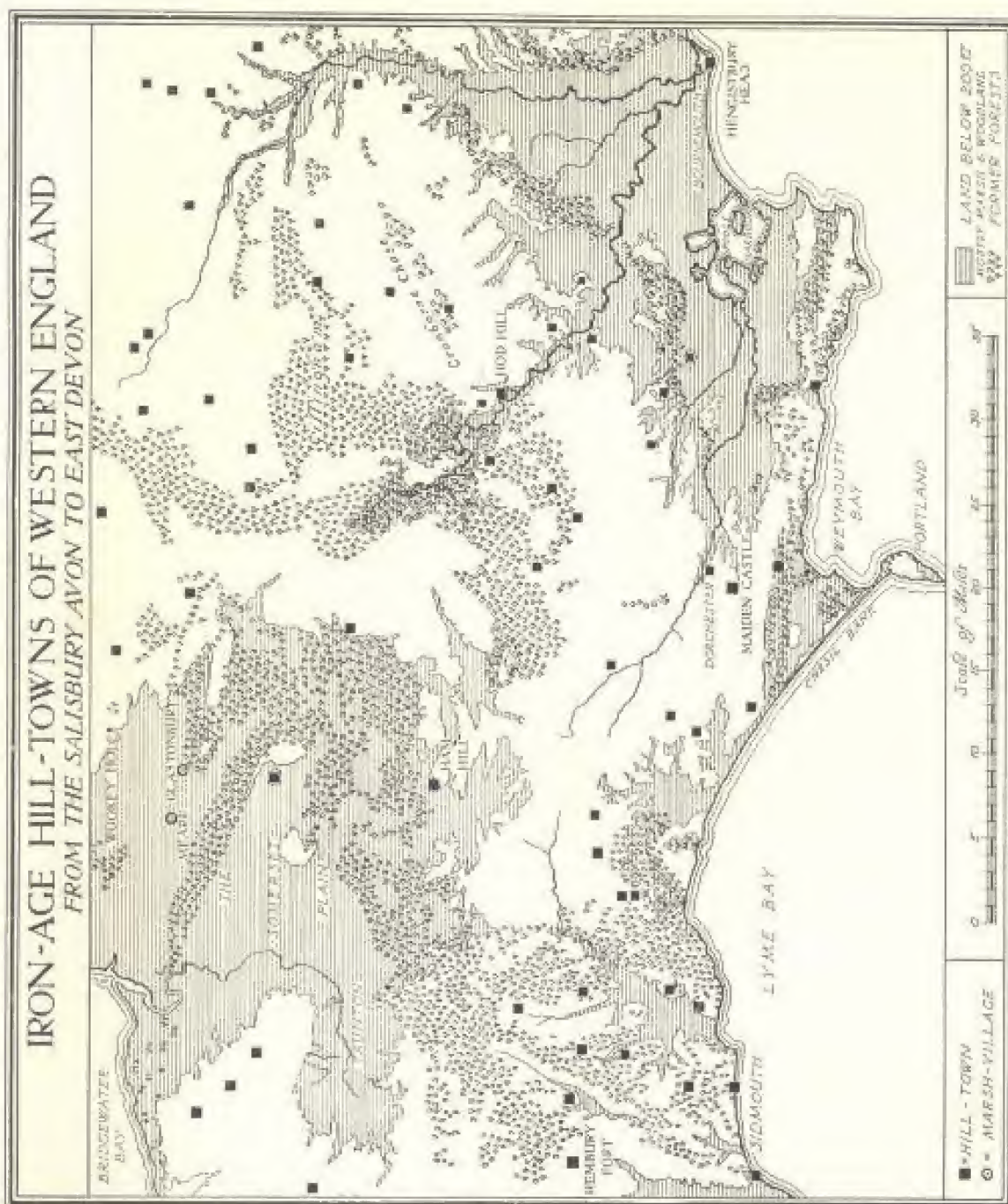
i. *Neolithic*

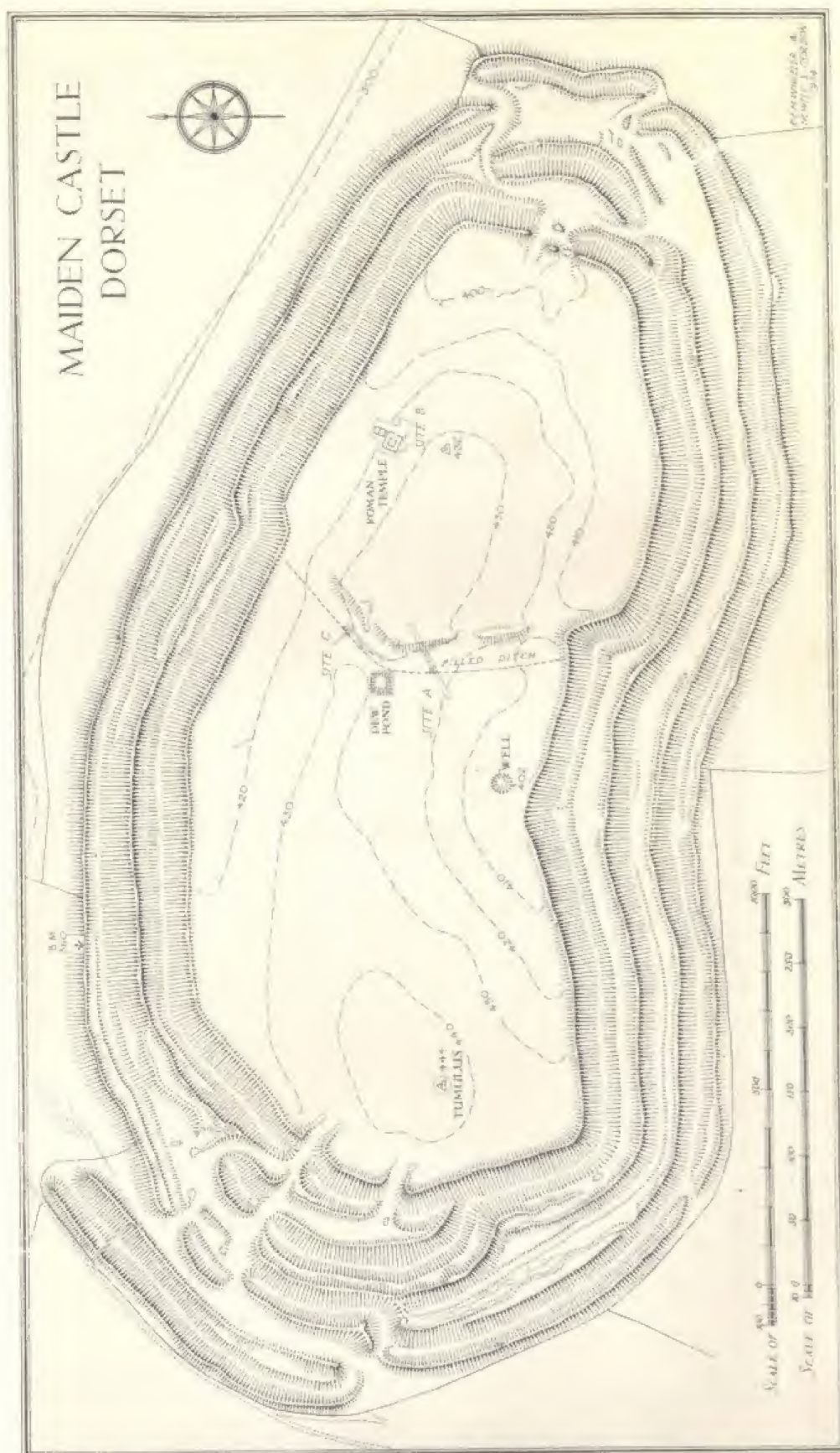
An exploratory trench, 211 ft. long and 10 ft. wide, here revealed not only the character of the earlier Iron Age defences but also an unexpected feature beneath them—four pits of the Neolithic period (pl. xxx, pits A 1, A 2, A 7, and A 23). Of these, the largest (A 2) was 11 ft. wide, $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep and square-bottomed; it extended north and south beyond the limits of the cutting, and, both from its size and from its position near the head of the slope, may be conjectured to have formed a part of an intermittent trench-system of the familiar 'Windmill Hill' type. Within it, a hearth capping the rapid silt indicated actual occupation, whilst the other pits had been used wholly or largely for cooking. They contained large quantities of primary flakes, a number of hazel-nuts, and bones of sheep, pig, and a large ox of the distinctive 'Neolithic' type found at Whitehawk Camp, Woodhenge, the Sanctuary on Overton Hill near Avebury, and a long barrow excavated in 1933 on Thickthorne Down near Farnham in Dorset.¹ The pottery is of simple 'Neolithic A' or Windmill-Hill types, entirely devoid of ornament. It is mostly of Mr. Piggott's basic types A, B, and C,² only one example showing a carination. On two examples a pronounced roll-rim is present. On the whole, it conforms closely with pottery found, it is understood, in the lower and earlier levels at Windmill Hill; but since similar pottery has recently been encountered by Mr. C. W. Phillips in a layer containing sherds of a 'B' beaker in the long barrow known as Giant's Hill near Skendleby in Lincolnshire, these rudimentary types may have lasted throughout the period of the 'Neolithic A' culture, for which a maximum span of about 2500–2000 or 1900 B.C. has been suggested.

The associated flint-industry at Maiden Castle includes a flint

¹ The excavators are deeply indebted to Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson for reporting upon the animal bones. His reports will later be published in detail.

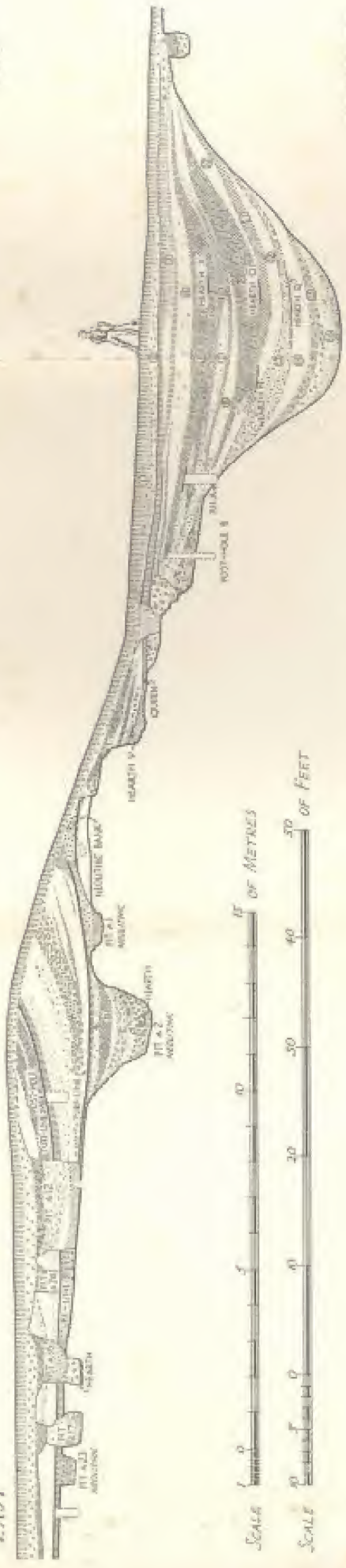
² *Archaeological Journal*, lxxxviii (1931), 75.





EAST

WEST



SCALE 0 10 20 30 40 50 FEET

SCALE 0 2 4 6 8 10 METRES

2 1/4 IN. HORIZ. 1 IN. V. 1934



OPHC

MAIDEN CASTLE DORSET

SECTION & PLAN OF CUTTING "A"

ACROSS ORIGINAL WESTERN DEFENCES

CONTINUATION
OF
PLAN

adze, several flint axes (one of them polished and re-chipped), circular scrapers, flakes with one edge toughened by almost vertical retouching on one side (the 'bevelled' flakes of Miss Dorothy Liddell's Neolithic industry at Hembury Fort, Devon¹), and a derivative *petit tranchet* of type F of Dr. Grahame Clark's recent classification.² The last is of a type normally associated with Peterborough-Beaker pottery and is apparently later than the bulk of the 'Neolithic A' culture; but it occurred at a high level in the filling of pit A 2 and may therefore not be representative of the mean date of the site.

A general analogy may be observed between the Neolithic culture of Maiden Castle and that of Hembury Fort, Devon, where the pottery is of similarly simple type.

ii. *Early Iron Age*

The Neolithic pits were filled up and were sealed by a thick and well-marked layer of turf before the Iron Age earthwork was built over and through them (pl. xxxi, layer B). Not a vestige of Bronze Age pottery was found either here or anywhere else during the excavations, and the lacuna is probably significant. A flattened barrow, presumably of the Bronze Age, can still be identified within the western part of the Castle, and the neighbouring downs are covered thickly with barrows, all or most of which may be ascribed to the same epoch. Here as elsewhere it is clear that, for burial and doubtless for traffic and grazing, the high downs were used freely during the Bronze Age. But the absence of evidence for Bronze Age occupation at Maiden Castle is in accordance with analogy, and it may be supposed that the dry sub-boreal climate of the second millennium B.C. largely depopulated the chalk uplands.

Ultimately, when the supervention of a damper sub-atlantic climate had brought the downs once more into commission, the first Iron Age earthwork, with a palisaded bank and a ditch some 50 ft. in width, came into being (pls. xxx-xxxii). Both the bank and the inner slope of the ditch were badly mutilated by subsequent Iron Age pits, but two post-holes of the palisade, each 1 ft. in diameter, were identified behind the present crest of the bank. No trace of a parallel series (as at Hollingbury in Sussex and elsewhere³) in the foreward part of the bank was recoverable. The palisade-posts were 8 ft. apart.

¹ *Proc. Devon Arch. Expl. Soc.* (1931), p. 94; 1932, p. 178.

² *Archaeological Journal*, xci (1934), 35, 50.

³ E. Cecil Curwen in *Antiq. Journ.* xiii (1933), 162; and C. F. C. Hawkes in *Antiquity*, v (1931), 71.

In anticipation of the chronological scheme outlined below (p. 274), it may be observed that in the filling of the ditch the nine lowest layers (8-16)—more than half of the total filling—contained pottery exclusively of Iron Age 'A 2' type, ascribed approximately to the fourth and third centuries B.C.; whilst of the hut-pits cut into the rampart, and therefore subsequent to it, two (A 15 and A 16) contained similar pottery.

Finally, an important fact revealed by the cutting is that the ditch was not deliberately filled in, e.g. by throwing the bank into it, but was gradually choked by the processes of occupation. At all levels above the lowest layers of silt, hut-floors and hearths occurred freely, indicating a peaceful period during which the defences were not actively in use for military purposes, and when, as it seems, an increasing population was swarming over them. This apparent increase of population, combined with some external stimulus not yet clearly identified, may be supposed to have led ultimately (at a date yet to be ascertained) to the enlargement and refortification of the site—in fact, to the building of Maiden Castle as we see it to-day. A parallel process of development may be observed at Yarnbury in Wiltshire, where the excavations of Mrs. M. E. Cunnington have shown that an earlier and smaller Iron Age earthwork was obliterated and replaced by a larger one in the course of a continuous occupation.¹

SITE C

On this site, adjoining site A, work was restricted mainly to a narrow trench driven along the line of the ditch to find whether at the highest and most obvious point there was an original entrance into the early camp on the west. The trench proved that there was no original causeway here or hereabouts, but indicated that, after the processes of filling described above, causeways of chalk-rubble, in one case with a carefully constructed curb, had been built at various superficial levels towards the end of the Early Iron Age—doubtless after the original rampart in the vicinity had been largely destroyed.

SITE B

i. *Early Iron Age*

The area trenched by Cunnington in 1882 was fully cleared in 1934 and was extended to cover about one-third of an acre (pl. xxxiii). In this area the soil was everywhere removed down to the chalk-rock except where Roman masonry still existed.

¹ *Wilt. Arch. Mag.* xlv (1933), 198 ff.



Site A: a, Neolithic pit or trench; n, turf-line over a; c, post-hole for palisade of Early Iron Age defences; d, rampart of Early Iron Age defences; e, material overlying the back of the rampart



Site A: The western ditch of the earlier Maiden Castle, from the east. The lowest man is standing on the original bottom of the ditch; behind the uppermost man are hut-pits, and in the distance are the later earthworks of Maiden Castle

Save for a space traversing the northern part of the site and probably representing a prehistoric street,¹ the whole area was honeycombed with pits, post-holes, and gullies. The pits ranged from shallow depressions to holes 10 ft. deep beneath the surface of the chalk-rock, and no less than 26 of the pits were upwards of 5 ft. deep below this datum. The smaller pits were normally cylindrical in shape, but the larger pits were of the beehive form common on Iron Age sites, the top being 2 or 3 ft. less in diameter than the bottom. It is certain that these pits were roofed or were included within a hut; otherwise, as experience showed, the overhang would not have lasted through the rains of a single summer season. It was difficult to identify related systems of post-holes in a site so long used and so extensively disturbed superficially in the Roman period. Some at least of the huts, however, were oblong; notably the hut which included pit B 19, where the pit is flanked by two parallel rows of contemporary post-holes (pl. xxxiii). A part of another small rectangular building with a central hearth was also identified on the western fringe of the site (post-holes hatched on plan).

In one instance, a large pit (B 1a) had been supplemented by the digging of a second pit alongside and partially into it (B 1b). A section of this double pit is shown in pl. xxxvi. Large pits such as these were doubtless used, in part at least, for habitation: thus the lowest made-floor in pit B 1a had a continuous ring of mutton-bones round its periphery, suggesting that the family had squatted round their hearth in the centre and had thrown the gnawed bones over their shoulders.

The smaller pits were apparently designed primarily for cooking and normally contained thickly superimposed hearths. Other pits were used wholly or partially for storage, parts of animal carcasses (*Bos longifrons*, sheep or goat, and pig, with occasional dog) occurring frequently in them. One pit (B 12) contained over 4,000 sling-stones—selected pebbles from the Chesil Bank—and another (B 17) contained a hoard of chalk loom-weights.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the site was the extensive series of gullies which interlaced it. In many cases these gullies had been filled up or interrupted by new pits during the prehistoric occupation: but it was evident that, in some instances at least, they had originally been designed for conducting rain-water to storage-pits. A clear instance of this

¹ This street was metalled with rammed flints and pebbles during the Belgic phase of occupation (first century A.D.), but seems previously to have had no special surfacing.

is provided by pit B 9 which was fed originally by a Y-shaped system of gullies, as shown on the plan. Pit B 15 probably provides another example. The pits were presumably lined with skins to prevent percolation: certainly in some cases a dark seam round the walls of the pits suggested a lining of timber or of skins—a point on which more may perhaps be said when results of analysis are available.

Of the pits which produced a significant quantity of pottery, both in this site and on site A, twelve may be ascribed to the cultural phase defined below (p. 274) as 'A 2', dated approximately to 400–200 B.C. or a little later; whilst thirty belong to the phase 'AB', dated approximately to the second and first centuries B.C. and the opening years of the first century A.D.

Two crouched infant-burials were found, in one case associated with a bead-rim bowl, of Iron Age 'B' type but wheel-turned and therefore ascribable to the first half of the first century A.D. The skull (cephalic index 80) and incomplete skeleton of a woman, between 40 and 60 years of age, were found in the lower filling of pit B 42 with Iron Age 'B' pottery.

ii. *Belgic*

No Belgic pottery was found amongst the contents of the dwelling- or storage-pits, and it is clear that the use of these ceased before or soon after Belgic influence reached the site.¹ On the other hand, over the lower and more northerly half of the area there was a considerable superficial deposit containing a scattering of Belgic types. Fragments of a number of Belgic pedestals and of one grey imported Belgic plate of derivative Arretine form were found in this deposit, together with a worn *denarius* of Lepidus (71 B.C.), and a little early Samian of forms 18, 27 and part of a base of form 29. Alongside these intrusive types, the native bead-rim 'B' ware continued with modifications due mainly to the introduction of the potter's wheel.

In date the Belgic occupation may be ascribed to the second quarter of the first century A.D.; and culturally it suggests influence rather than domination.

iii. *Roman*

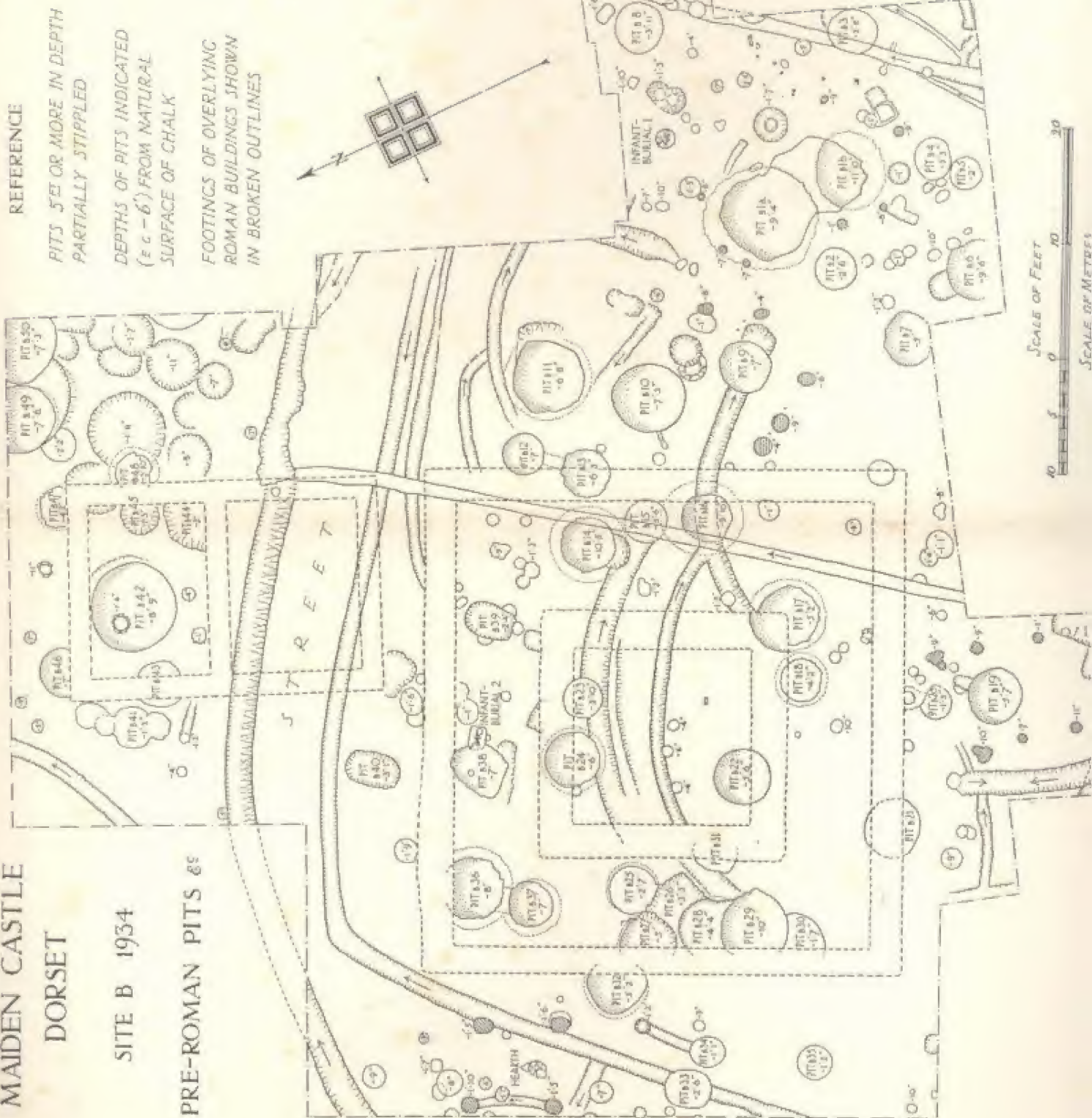
A straight and notably square-cut drain traversing the centre of the area from south-west to north-east and cutting through the upper filling of pits B 14–16 contained fragments of Roman

¹ For example, a lined post-hole of Belgic period occurred in the top filling of pit B 42

MAIDEN CASTLE DORSET

SITE B 1934

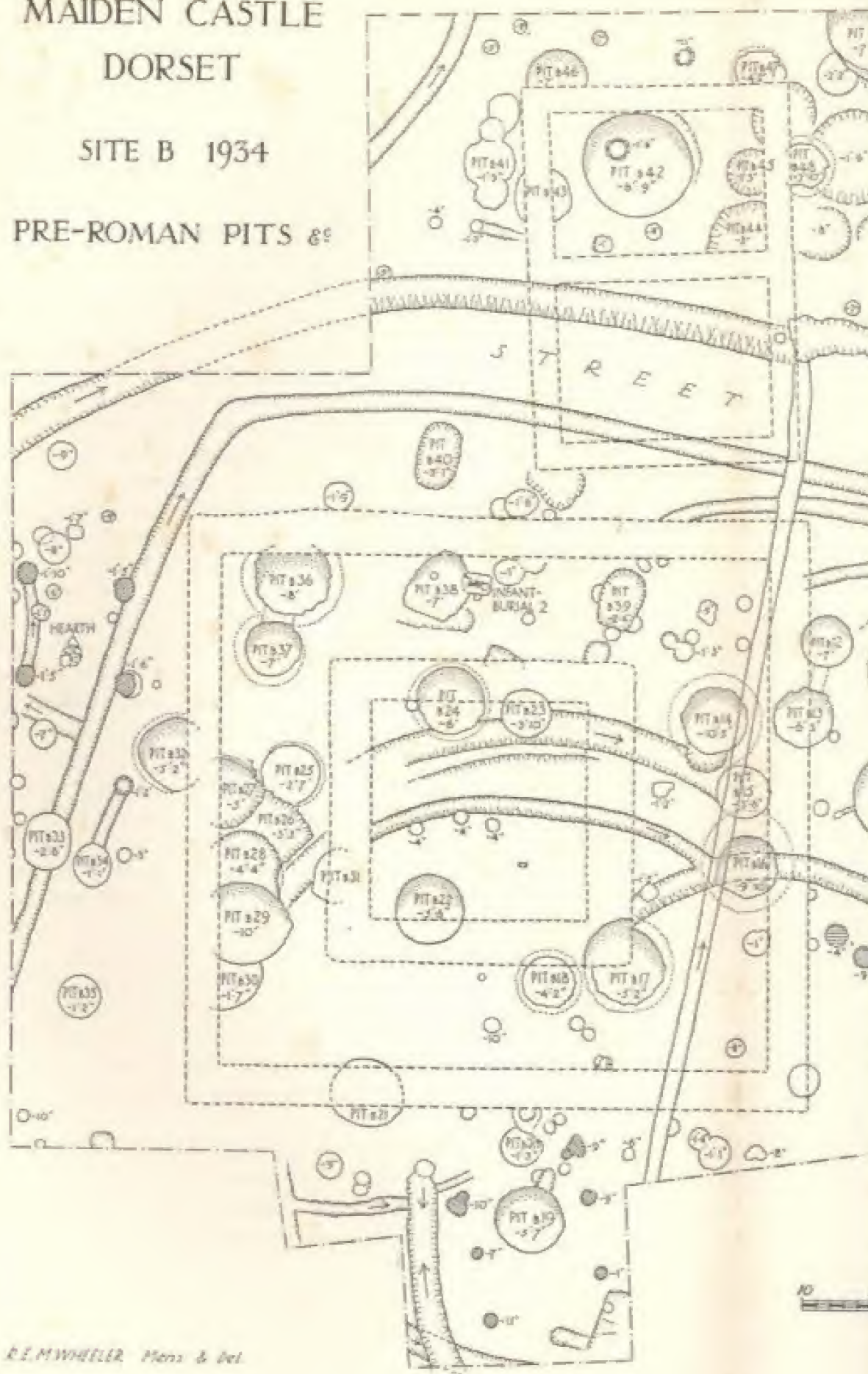
PRE-ROMAN PITS &c



MAIDEN CASTLE
DORSET

SITE B 1934

PRE-ROMAN PITS &c



EN CASTLE
ORSET

EB 1934

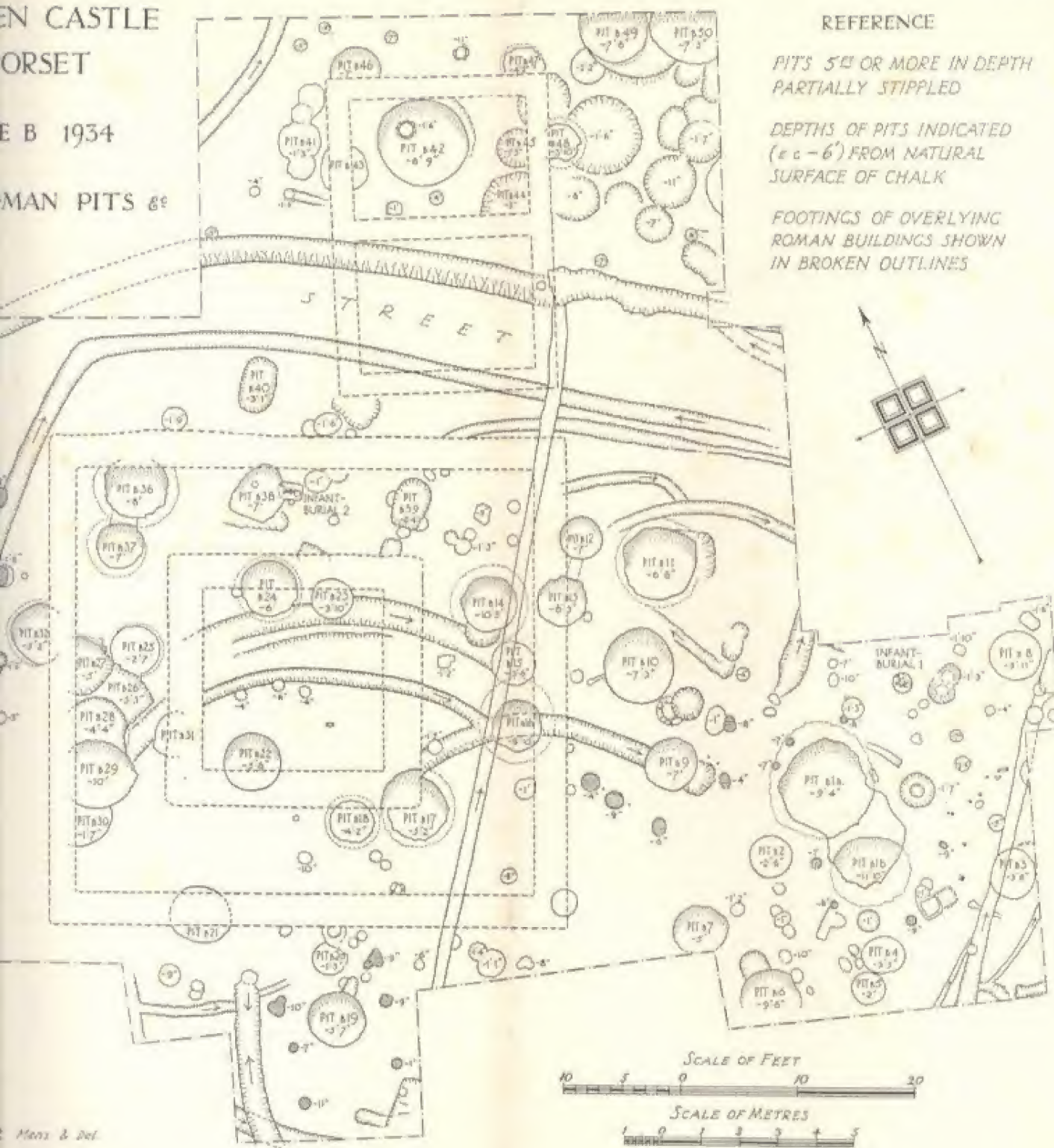
MAN PITS &c

REFERENCE

PITS 5' OR MORE IN DEPTH
PARTIALLY STIPPLED

DEPTHS OF PITS INDICATED
(e.g. -6') FROM NATURAL
SURFACE OF CHALK

FOOTINGS OF OVERLYING
ROMAN BUILDINGS SHOWN
IN BROKEN OUTLINES



brick and must belong to the Roman period. To the same period likewise belongs a parallel drain on the eastern fringe of the area, cutting through pit B 3. These drains suggest that search would reveal a Roman building farther up the hill. Otherwise, the greater part of the Roman period—during which the population of Maiden Castle may be supposed to have gravitated down-hill towards Roman Dorchester—is represented merely by occasional sherds of pottery, including a few fragments of second-century Samian. It was not until the last quarter of the fourth century A.D. that the building which Cunnington identified as a 'villa' was erected on the site. Complete excavation has now shown that this 'villa' was a temple of the usual square 'Romano-Celtic' type with a central shrine and a surrounding portico or verandah (pl. xxxvii). The building had been badly wrecked, but the external verandah-wall survived to a maximum height of 3 ft. (indicating that the colonnade, if there was one at all on this stormy site, was founded on a breast-high wall) and retained its painted external plastering. The floors had been of concrete, capped, at least in the case of the verandah, by red tesserae, which had subsequently been replaced by a secondary flooring consisting largely of hexagonal stone roofing-slabs. The entrance had been on the eastern side and had been approached by a carefully pitched road.

The date of the building was securely indicated by a number of coins sealed by the primary cement flooring: Constantine I (1), Magnentius (1), Constans (1), Constantius II (2), barbarous *Fel. Temp. Reparatio* type (1), Valens (3), Valentinian (1), Gratian (1). Equally significant was a number of coins found under the compact mortared foundation of the road adjoining and contemporary with the temple: Claudius Gothicus (1), Crispus (1), Constantine I (1), Constans (2), Constantius II (4), Constans or Constantius (1), barbarous *Fel. Temp. Reparatio* type (1), Magnentius (2), Valens (1). The latest coins lost prior to the completion of the temple were thus four of Valens (A.D. 364–78) and one of Gratian (A.D. 367–83). The temple is therefore not earlier than A.D. 367.

Its secondary floor sealed other fourth-century coins, including one of Theodosius, and was therefore not earlier than A.D. 379.

The further occupation of the building was represented by eighty fourth-century coins, including eight of the House of Theodosius, together with a small hoard of four gold coins of Honorius and Arcadius found with a gold finger-ring close outside the east wall.

Cunnington found a fragment of a bronze statue and a 'feathered' bronze votive plaque bearing a figure of Minerva in repoussé. In 1934 a small votive bull of tinned bronze with the three horns familiar on votive bulls from eastern Gaul,¹ and surmounted by three human busts, one with the head missing, came to light (pl. xxxix). The addition of the busts seems to be unique; discussion of them is reserved for the full report.

Adjoining the temple on the north was a small two-roomed house or bungalow (pl. xxxviii, 2), presumably the dwelling of the priest. The associated pottery equated in date with that from the temple.

The historic setting of the temple, built within the last generation of official Roman rule in Britain, obviously requires careful consideration in due course. Here it will suffice to recall the parallel evidence at Lydney in Gloucestershire, where an elaborate temple and associated buildings were erected at the same late date; whilst there is more than a hint also that secular building, at any rate in the west of England, was not entirely at a standstill during the last Roman phase.² Further, the clumsy repairs in the Maiden Castle temple and at Lydney, implying, as they appear to do, a considerable lapse of time and a depreciation of social standards, may well be as late as the fifth century. Finally, the re-utilization of a pre-historic earthwork for pagan religious purposes during the decline of Roman Britain both at Lydney and at Maiden Castle³ offers interesting possibilities from more than one point of view. But these again must be referred to the full report.

The excavations will be continued in August and September 1935, and an appeal for funds is issued by the Society of Antiquaries through the Maiden Castle Excavation Committee, whose chairman is Sir Charles Peers. It is obvious that, on a site of which the constructional units are on so large a scale, expenditure is proportionately heavy, and contributions, whether large or small, will be welcomed by Lieut.-Col. C. D. Drew, D.S.O.,

¹ Cf. F. Stähelin, *Die Schweiz in römischer Zeit* (Basel, 1931), p. 510, and references there given both to the three-horned bull and to the three-headed god.

² Thus, the recent examination of the Roman house at Bourton-on-the-Water in the Cotswolds has proved a partial reconstruction not earlier than the end of the fourth century.

³ And possibly at Chanctonbury in Sussex, although the date of the Chanctonbury temple has not been ascertained. See *Sussex Arch. Collections*, liii (1910), 131 ff.



1. The eastern half of Maiden Castle, showing the extent of the earlier earthwork.
In the foreground, sites A and C; in the middle distance, site B

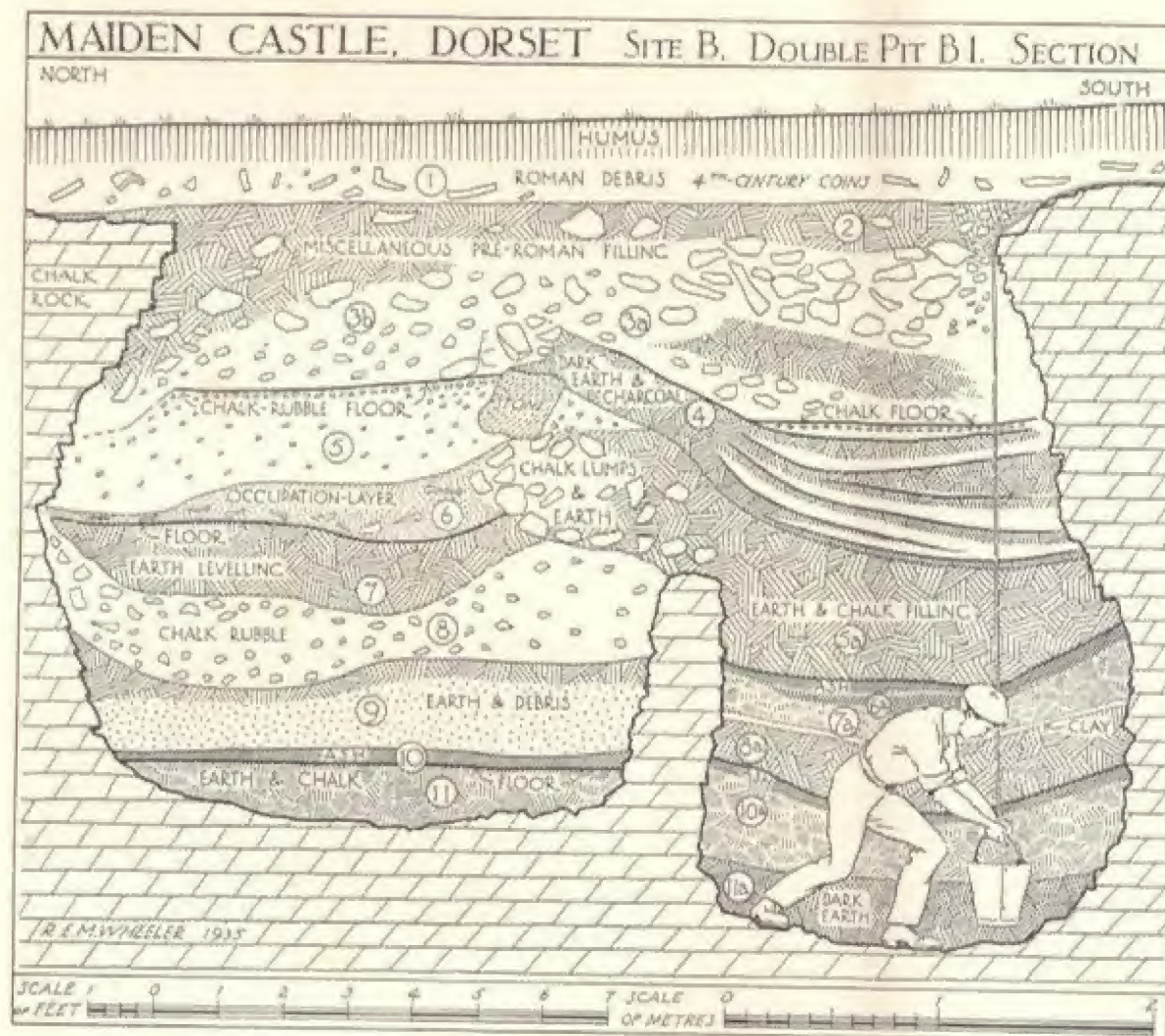
(Air-photograph by Major G. W. G. Allen)



2. Site B from the south, showing Roman Temple and underlying Iron Age pits



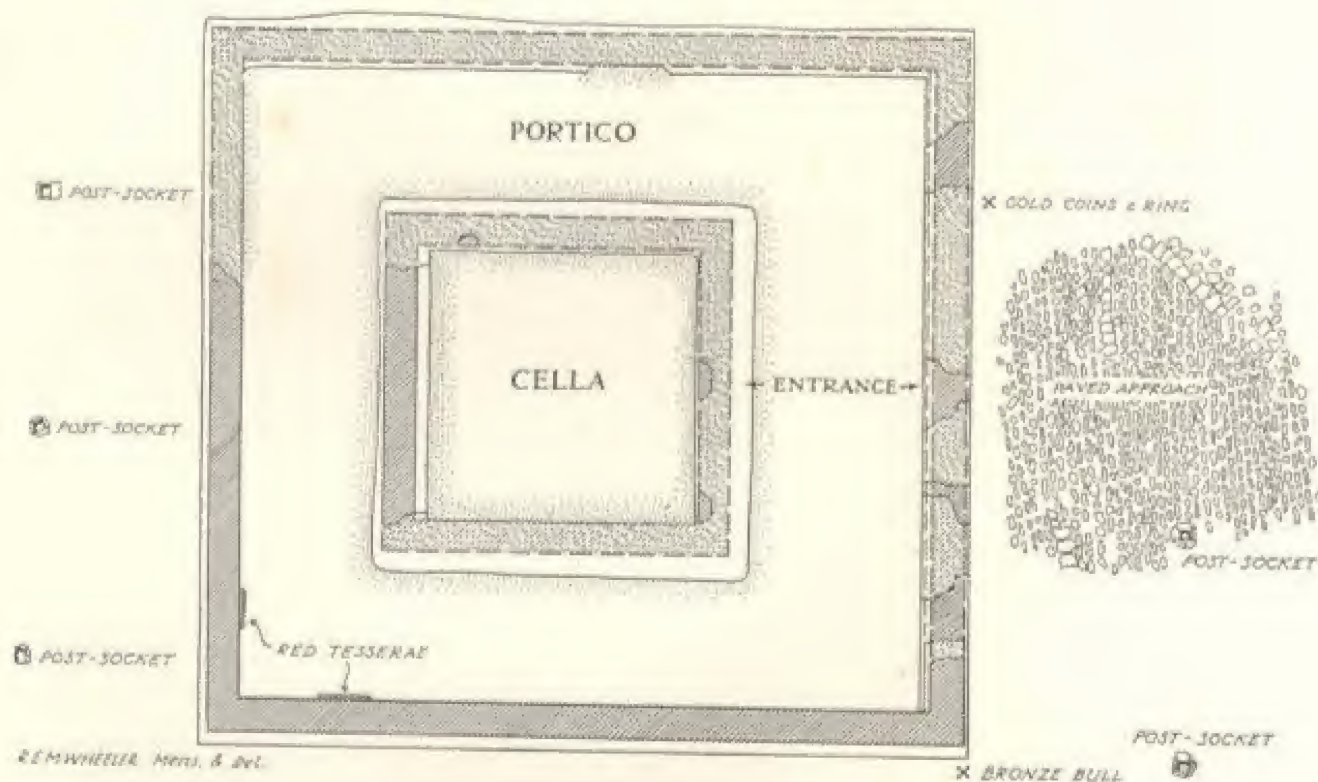
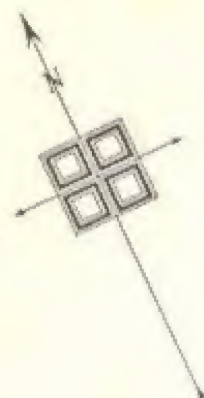
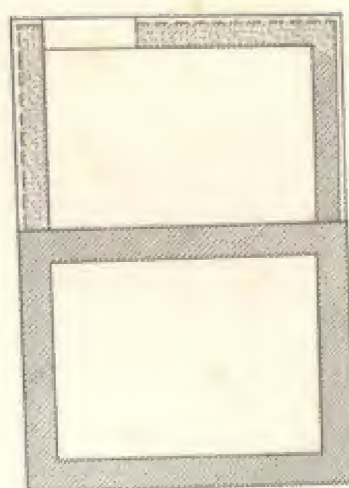
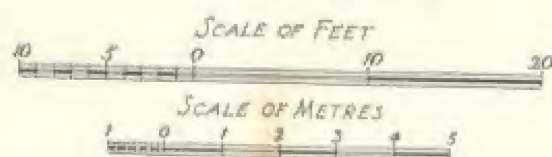
Site B: double pit #1 from the south



MAIDEN CASTLE DORSET

SITE B 1934

LATE ROMAN TEMPLE
AND HOUSE



EXCAVATION OF MAIDEN CASTLE, DORSET 273

F.S.A., Treasurer of the Maiden Castle Excavation Fund, The County Museum, Dorchester, Dorset.

Provisional basis of classification

A note may be added on the system of classification which I have used provisionally in dealing with the Early Iron Age material from Maiden Castle. A more detailed statement is deferred until the system has been further tested at Maiden Castle and elsewhere.

Mr. Christopher Hawkes's general classification of the British Early Iron Age cultures into three divisions 'A, B, and C'—is adopted, with modifications and additions. It will be recalled that his Iron Age 'A' is a composite culture derived mainly from the 'Hallstatt' urn-field cultures of the Low Countries and the Marnian culture best known at Les Jogasses. In this country some of its features were first identified at Hengistbury Head, but the type-site is All Cannings Cross, near Devizes. Iron Age 'B' has been identified *par excellence* with the distinctive culture of the Somerset marsh-villages at Glastonbury and Meare. Iron Age 'C' is the culture of the Belgic immigrants. Of the three cultures, 'A' is lacking almost entirely in decorative artistry of any distinction, 'B' is marked by the elaborate and effective curvilinear decoration which has been regarded as pre-eminently Celtic, whilst 'C' is again deficient for the most part in artistic expression but is technically well equipped, e.g. with the potter's wheel.

Geographically, 'A' is found, in one variant or another, over most of middle and southern England; 'B' occurs primarily in south-western England, but extends on the one hand north-east to Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire, along the 'Jurassic zone', and on the other hand eastwards into Sussex, which has always tended to form a cultural promontory of Wessex (herein the original distribution-map in *Antiquity* now requires a slight amendment).

Chronologically, 'A' may be recognized probably as early as the sixth century B.C. In Oxfordshire,¹ in Kent,² and in other south-eastern counties, it seems to have remained dominant down to the first century B.C. or later. In the west it was thought to have been replaced by 'B' in or about the second century B.C. The Belgic culture, 'C', entered south-eastern Britain in the first half of the first century B.C.; but even if (as appears likely) wheel-turned vessels with high, rounded shoulders and broad bead-rims are secondary Belgic, there seems to be no good evidence for Belgic intrusion into Wessex before the beginning of the first century A.D.

The further detailed classification of 'C' is a relatively simple matter, and is now proceeding at Colchester and Verulamium. The other two cultures are more difficult, if only because they were more complex in

¹ *Antiquity*, v (1931), 60 ff. Cf. C. A. R. Radford, *Proc. 1st Intern. Cong. Preh. & Protohist. Sciences*, 1932, p. 147.

² Cf. E. T. Leeds in *Antiq. Journ.*, xv (1935), 41.

³ As shown by Mr. R. F. Jessup and Mr. N. Cook at Bigberry, and elsewhere.

origin, and more leisurely and local in development. Provisionally, I propose in the present context to subdivide 'A' into three parts, as follows:

A1, c. 600–400 B.C. Marked by finger-tip ornament, particularly on high-shouldered urns of *situla* type; and by red-coated ('haematite') bowls, at first with rilled decoration and later with cordons. All these types abound at All Cannings Cross, but, save for a single sherd of a cordoned bowl, they are notably absent at Maiden Castle.

A2, c. 400–200 B.C. (or a little later). Marked by an *absence* of the above types, and by the presence of poor derivatives of the *situlae*, in the form of vessels with weakly rounded shoulders. These vessels are sometimes of considerable size and show much evidence of their handling by the potter. The top of the rim tends to be flat, but this feature is not universal. Red haematite-coating still occurs freely, but no longer on the small bowls of A1. The fabric is generally coarse and rough, but notably *light* in weight. No decoration. A2 pottery is well represented at Maiden Castle.

AB, c. 200 B.C. (or a little later)—early first century A.D. The smaller and simpler types of A2 last on, together with the occasional use of haematite coating, which occurs in rare cases as late as the beginning of the first century A.D. Throughout this period, however, much of the pottery is of 'B' types, which must now be considered.

Iron Age 'B' has sometimes been regarded as a relatively simple culture, essentially synonymous with 'Glastonbury'. Evidence is accumulating to suggest that it is in fact a complex containing two or three elements of diverse geographical or chronological origin. Without discussing this matter here, it will suffice to define our use of the term in relation to the Wessex hill-forts. In these, the outstanding feature of the Glastonbury wares—their elaborate decoration—is markedly rare. Thus at Hengistbury six months' excavation yielded only half a dozen pieces of decorated 'Glastonbury' ware. At Maiden Castle, amongst some thousands of sherds found in 1934, again only half a dozen bore typical 'Glastonbury' patterns.¹ The *decorated* 'B' pottery is not therefore a useful criterion in the hill-forts, still populated mainly (it seems) by the inartistic 'A' people; and I propose to take as 'B' types in this context two other features which are more widely valid—the *bead-rim* (not, of course, the late and often heavy wheel-turned 'Belgic' variety, but the simple hand-made type), and the '*countersunk*' *handle*. Neither of these features occurs in 'A' pottery; 'A' handles are normally inserted into the side of the vessel, and are never pinched-out in such a manner as to produce an indentation or countersinking in the side of the pot.

¹ Further west, at Hembury Fort in Devon, where Iron Age pottery was relatively scarce, the proportion of 'Glastonbury' pieces was higher—either, it may be suggested, by the chance of discovery, or perhaps because Hembury lay along the line of 'Glastonbury' immigration. But there is insufficient evidence at present, I understand, to regard Hembury as a 'Glastonbury' hill-fort.



1. Southern defences, from the west



2. 'The Roman "priest's house"', from the north, with underlying Iron Age pits



Votive bronze bull surmounted by human busts. From the Roman temple. (1)

It may be added that in the 'B' cultures of Glastonbury and Meare haematite-coating was not practised. Amongst the whole of the pottery from those sites now in the Taunton Museum,¹ only one vessel (from Meare)—of large size and coarse fabric, and doubtless intrusive—bears traces of this feature. In the mixed 'AB' culture of Maiden Castle, however, 'B' types occasionally occur with the haematite surface, clearly instances of the adoption of 'B' types by 'A' potters.

Lastly, as to the Belgic 'C' culture at Maiden Castle. If the available evidence is representative, this did not, apparently, reach the site until the eve of the Roman conquest; its arrival may even have synchronized with that event. It is manifested by a hesitant introduction of normal Belgic wares and, more especially, by the reproduction of modified 'B' types with the aid of the potter's wheel. The composite culture might indeed more aptly be described as 'BC'.

¹ I have to thank Mr. St. George Gray for generous facilities for the examination of the Somerset material.